

ARGUMENTS/REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 12-16 and 19-22 were pending in this application.

Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 17, 18 and 23-26 were withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1, 4, 16 and 20 were objected to.

Claims 1-3, 7-9, 12, 14, 15 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Livingston U.S. Patent No. 1,877,919 (hereinafter "Livingston").

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 12-16 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ramsay U.S. Patent No. 4,682,430 (hereinafter "Ramsay").

Summary of Applicants' Amendments

Applicants have amended claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9, 12-16, 19 and 20 solely in order to expedite prosecution.

Applicants have cancelled claim 4 without prejudice and solely in order to expedite prosecution.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections. Applicants reserve the right to claim any subject matter lost by any amendment or cancellation in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

Applicants' Reply to the Withdrawl of Claims

The Examiner withdrew claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 17, 18 and 23-26. Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 17 and 18, however, depend from claims that have not been withdrawn. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the examiner reinstate any withdrawn dependent claim that depends from an allowed claim when such a claim is allowed.

Applicants' Reply to the Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 1 for including the phrase "the top and bottom portions." Applicants have amended claim 1 to include "the top and lower portions." Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to claim 4 for including the phrase "a perimeter." In view of claim 1, as currently amended, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to claim 16 for including the phrase "the inner surface." Applicants have amended claim 16 to include "an inner surface." Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to claim 20 for including the phrase "first display window." Applicants have amended claim 20

to include "the first display window." Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's objection be withdrawn.

Applicants' Reply to the Rejections
Under 102(b) Using Livingston

Claims 1-3, 7-9, 12, 14, 15 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Livingston.

Claim 1

Applicants' invention, as defined by claim 1, teaches a base having a first display window and a second display window. A tile carrier is located in the first window for retaining tiles and a picture is retained in the second window.

Livingston merely discusses a flat panel of glass adjacent to an inscription.

The Examiner stated that Livingston shows a "nameplate comprising a base (flat glass panel 1) having an inner surface and at least one display window" (Office Action, page 4).

Livingston, however, does not show or suggest applicants' invention of claim 1 of a first display window and a second display window -- let alone a tile carrier in the first display window and a picture in the second display window. Livingston merely discusses a plate that can be seen through a piece of glass. Applicants' invention of claim 1, however, includes a tile carrier in the first display window and a picture in the second display window.

In light of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, and any claims dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim 12

Applicants' invention, as defined by claim 12, teaches a base having a first display window and a second display window. A tile carrier is located in the first window for retaining tiles and a picture is operable to be displayed in the second window.

Livingston merely discusses a flat panel of glass adjacent to an inscription.

The Examiner stated that Livingston shows a "nameplate comprising a base (flat glass panel 1) having an inner surface and at least one display window" (Office Action, page 4).

Livingston, however, does not show or suggest applicants' invention of claim 12 of a first display window and a second display window -- let alone a tile carrier in the first display window and a second display window operable to display a picture. Livingston merely discusses a plate that can be seen through a piece of glass. Applicants' invention of claim 12, however, includes a tile carrier in the first display window and a second display window operable to display a picture.

In light of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's rejection of claim 12, and any

claims dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Applicants' Reply to the Rejections
Under 102(b) Using Ramsay

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 12-16 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ramsay.

Claim 1

Applicants' invention, as described by claim 1, teaches a base having a first display window and a tile carrier in the first display window. The tile carrier comprises a top portion and a lower portion so that each tile can slidably engage with the top portion and lower portion of the tile carrier.

Ramsay discusses guide tracks, where each track is only operable to couple to a single side of a single price chip.

The Examiner stated that Ramsay shows a "a tile carrier (price chip support strip 20) having a top portion and a lower portion" (Office Action, page 5).

Ramsay, however, does not show or suggest the applicants' invention of claim 1 of a tile carrier having a top portion and a lower portion, wherein the top and lower portions of the tile carrier can retain a plurality of tiles by slidable engagement of upper and lower side of the tiles. Ramsay merely allegedly discusses a price chip support strip having a

plurality of longitudinal ledges 30 and 31 in which each side of each ledge may engage a single side of a single price chip. Applicants' invention of claim 1, however, includes a tile carrier having a top and lower portion wherein a plurality of tiles are operable to be retained in the tile carrier by slidable engagement of upper and lower sides of the plurality of tiles with the top and lower portion of the tile carrier.

Furthermore, Ramsay does not show or suggest a first display window and a second display window wherein the dimensions of the first display window are different from the dimensions of the second display window. Ramsay merely discusses a "number of equal size display openings 23" (Ramsay, col. 2, lines 17-20). Applicants' invention of claim 1, however, includes a first and second display window wherein the dimensions of the first window are different from the dimensions of the second window.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, and any claims dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim 12

Applicants' invention, as described by claim 12, teaches a base having a first display window and a tile carrier in the first window. The tile carrier comprises two channels so that each tile can slidably engage with the channels.

The Examiner stated that Ramsay shows a "a tile carrier (price chip support strip 20) having a top portion and a lower portion" (Office Action, page 5).

Ramsay, however, does not show or suggest the applicants' invention of claim 12 of a tile carrier having an upper channel and a lower channel, wherein an upper side of tiles slidably engage the upper channel and a lower side of tiles slidably engage the lower channel. Ramsay merely allegedly discusses a price chip support strip having a plurality of longitudinal ledges 30 and 31 in which each side of each ledge may couple with a single side of a single price chip. Applicants' invention of claim 12, however, includes a tile carrier having an upper channel and a lower channel, wherein the upper side of tiles slidably engage the upper channel and the lower side of the tiles slidably engage the lower channel.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's rejection of claim 12, and any claims dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim 20

Applicants' invention, as described by claim 20, teaches sliding the upper and lower sides of the plurality of tiles into an upper and lower channel disposed on a tile carrier.

The Examiner stated that Ramsay discusses a "tile

carrier (price chip support strip 20) having a top portion and a lower portion" (Office Action, page 5).

Ramsay, however, does not show or suggest applicants' invention of claim 20 of sliding the upper and lower sides of the plurality of tiles into an upper and lower channel disposed on a tile carrier. Ramsay merely allegedly discusses a price support chip being inserted vertically into a single pocket having longitudinal edges. Applicants' invention of claim 20, however, includes sliding the upper and lower sides of the plurality of tiles into an upper and lower channel disposed on a tile carrier.

In light of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claim 20 and any claims dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim 21

Applicants' invention, as described by claim 21, teaches a tile carrier having an upper channel and a lower channel, wherein an upper side of tiles slidably engage the upper channel of the tile carrier and a lower side of the tiles slidably engage the lower channel of the tile carrier.

The Examiner stated that Ramsay discusses a "tile carrier (price chip support strip 20) having a top portion and a lower portion" (Office Action, page 5).

Ramsay, however, does not show or suggest the applicants' invention of claim 21 of a tile carrier having an upper channel and a lower channel, wherein an upper side of tiles slidably engage the upper channel and a lower side of tiles slidably engage the lower channel. Ramsay merely allegedly discusses a price chip support strip having a plurality of longitudinal ledges 30 and 31 in which each side of each ledge may engage a single side of a single price chip. Applicants' invention of claim 21, however, includes a tile carrier having an upper channel and a lower channel, wherein the upper side of tiles slidably engage the upper channel and the lower side of the tiles slidably engage the lower channel.

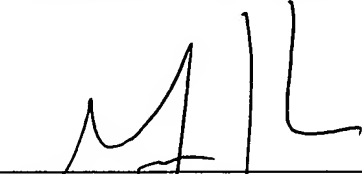
Furthermore, Ramsay does not show or suggest a photograph frame as included in applicants' invention of claim 21. Ramsay merely allegedly discusses a price chip support strip. Applicants' invention of claim 21, however, includes a photograph frame.

In light of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claim 21 and any claims dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this application, including the pending claims, is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. D. Mullen', is written over a horizontal line.

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